

(b) whether the cultivation of opium has been banned in some of the areas;

(c) if so, the names of these areas and the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check it;

(d) whether Government have issued licences for the cultivation of opium in some more areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Cultivation of opium poppy is undertaken only in the notified tracts in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh under strict licensing control and supervision of the Central Government. Such tracts have been notified for the opium crop year 1991-92 vide Govt. of India Notification No. 1/91, dated 1st October, 1991.

To check illicit cultivation of opium poppy, different drug law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil and stringent penal measures have been provided under the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Foreign Assistance for Projects

1794. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

SHRI RATILAL VARMA:

SHRIMATI BHAVNA

CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries including

Germany and France, have offered to aid some projects in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where the said projects are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). The donor countries normally offer assistance in terms of an overall pledge. Thereafter aid negotiations, as a continuous process, are held with each donor country for various project and non-project needs of the economy. The details such as project and non-project assistance, terms and conditions etc. are known only after the agreements with donor countries are finalised.

[English]

Customs Officials Aiding Smuggling Activities

1795. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Customs officials posted at the airports found aiding and abetting the smuggling activities during each of the last three years, airport-wise;

(b) the action taken against such officials and the number of them posted again to the airports in spite of their involvement;

(c) whether the procedure for posting of Customs officials at the airports is being followed strictly; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The